REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 9 has been canceled, claims 1, 21 and 22 have been amended and claims 23 and 24 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

In the view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 and 10-24 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING OBVIOUS OVER SHIMOMURA ET AL (USPN 5,838,596)

In the Office Action, on pages 2-8, claims 1-22 were rejected for the reasons set forth therein. The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, the transport simulation apparatus simulates transport of a sheet-like flexible medium in a transport mechanism and three-dimensionally displays the simulated transport.

Please note that claim 1 is amended to recite that the simulation section handles the flexible medium as a three-dimensional model, the model being constituted by interconnecting a plurality of strip-shaped members so as to be rotatable bout an axis parallel to said widthwise direction. Similar amendments are made to independent claims 21 and 22.

In the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004, the Examiner refers to Shimomura (USPN 5,838,596). However, as described in column 17, lines 52-58 and FIG. 27 of Shimomura, the simulation apparatus only displays the two-dimensional movement of the transport medium. Shimomura fails to take into consideration information about the width of a flexible medium or the motion of the flexible medium in the widthwise direction, which is perpendicular to the transport direction. Naturally, a difference in the width of transport mediums or the disposition of the mediums in a widthwise direction cannot be displayed.

The configuration recited in Shimomura is significantly different than the present invention, for example, in claim 1, where the transport simulation apparatus includes a flexible medium setting section for setting the length and the width of said flexible medium as dimensional information, the length being a measurement in a transport direction in which the flexible medium is transported and the width being a measurement in a widthwise direction

which is perpendicular to the transport direction with respect to a plane on which the flexible medium is transported. Thus, the simulation section is able to display the transport medium as a three-dimensional model.

It is respectfully submitted that Shimomura does not teach or suggest simulation and display taking into account the width of the transport medium in the widthwise direction of the transportation path. Therefore, at the time the present invention was made, it would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

Although the above arguments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the arguments would be helpful in understanding differences in various other claims over Shimomura.

III. IDS

The outstanding Office Action includes a Form PTO-1449 of the IDS filed March 30, 2001. The Examiner lined through Reference AG (Hei 9-309665), thereby not considering the foreign patent citation. However, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, Reference AA (USPN 5,838,596) is disclosed as corresponding to Reference AG, as noted in Attachment 1(e) of the IDS.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge Reference AG in the IDS filed March 30, 2001.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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